



HR1054

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Village of Stockton
4 and the reunion of the Kraft family as they celebrate to 100th
5 anniversary of J.L. Kraft coming to Stockton to start a cheese
6 manufacturing plant that grew into an international company now
7 known as Kraft Foods; and

8 WHEREAS, This history of this cheese plant started when J.
9 L. Kraft, seeking a quality cheese product in June of 1914,
10 began production under the management of his brother, Norman
11 Kraft; dairy farmers in the area were encouraged to increase
12 milk production all year round and sell that milk to Kraft;
13 their goal was to improve the cheese-making process and produce
14 a better product; and

15 WHEREAS, The Village of Stockton was chosen because of
16 accessibility to the railroads to transport the cheese to the
17 cities and the large number of dairy farmers in the area,
18 producing a plentiful milk supply; and

19 WHEREAS, During World War I, the Stockton plant was used
20 for research and continued development of better cheeses and
21 packaging; this made it possible to send cheese to our troops
22 and to war-torn countries after the war; and

1 WHEREAS, Kraft realized that quality cheese required
2 quality milk, which resulted in developing dairy farm sanitary
3 facilities guidelines and herd health standards which are still
4 part of the dairy industry today; and

5 WHEREAS, Macaroni and cheese, a food enjoyed for many
6 centuries, was introduced by Kraft Foods in 1937; this boxed
7 macaroni and cheese, which sold for 19 cents, became a staple
8 for many households in the Depression-era; other products
9 developed were Velveeta Cheese, Wright's French Dressing, and
10 Milani's Mayonnaise; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1930, the Kraft-Phenix Cheese Corporation was
12 acquired by National Dairy Products, but Stockton continued its
13 research for new cheese varieties; with the start of World War
14 II, cheese production grew and improved packaging provided
15 quality food for American troops and starving people in Europe;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The Stockton plant still produces large amount of
18 Swiss cheese, maintaining the high standards of quality
19 established a hundred years ago by J. L. Kraft; and

20 WHEREAS, Honored at the Kraft reunion will be the Bill and
21 Mary Borsdorf family, which continues in the footsteps of their

1 Bill's grandfather, Nicholas, who was the first dairy farmer to
2 sell milk to Kraft in Stockton in 1914; Bill and Mary's family
3 dairy farm continues the 100-year history of supplying milk to
4 the cheese plant in Stockton; and

5 WHEREAS, The series of events for the anniversary will
6 include a parade and an open house to view the Kraft and dairy
7 exhibits at the Stockton Heritage Museum; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we congratulate the Village of Stockton and the members of the
11 J.L. Kraft family on the 100th anniversary of the beginnings of
12 a small cheese plant to the giant corporation that exists
13 today; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 presented to Village of Stockton, the Stockton Heritage Museum,
16 the Kraft family, Stockton Cheese, and the Bill Borsdorf
17 family.